

Central Sands Lakes Study

Under [2017 Wisconsin Act 10](#), the department will evaluate and model the potential impacts of groundwater withdrawals on three specific lakes in the Central Sands region through the [Central Sands Lakes Study](#). The three lakes in the study are all in Waushara County – Long Lake and Plainfield Lake near Plainfield, and Pleasant Lake near Coloma.

The study includes the use of a groundwater flow model to evaluate cumulative impacts from existing and potential groundwater withdrawals on the three lakes. The groundwater flow model involves data collection and compilation across the region. As required by Act 10, field studies will also evaluate the impact of groundwater withdrawals on lakes.

The department will determine if there is the potential for significant impacts to the lake's average seasonal levels as a result of groundwater withdrawals. If the department determines that the potential for significant impacts exists, several steps will be taken including a public hearing, economic impact analysis and providing recommendations to the Legislature for special measures to mitigate those impacts.